

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3551

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2015

Himalayan Ecology

Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation has expressed the view that the ecology of the Himalayas is under threat due to the developmental activities in the area;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether various voluntary organisations and activists have demanded to prepare a feasible environmental policy for the Himalayan Region;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization has been supported by the Department of Science and Technology with an objective to build popular opinion for a common road map to restore health of Himalaya by involving community and research institutes and to review the status of different resources in Himalaya, i.e. forest, water, soil, glaciers etc., and to assess the current livelihood practices and explore other possibility especially Eco-preneurship. Further, studies undertaken in different parts of Himalaya by various organizations including the G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development have indicated increasing threats to Himalayan Ecology due to fragility of Himalayan Ecosystem and various anthropogenic activities.

(c), (d) & (e) The need for sound environmental policy for the Himalayan Region has been made from time to time by several stakeholder organisations. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change accords high priority to protection and development of Himalayan Ecosystem. Several initiatives have been taken for protection and development of Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). Launching of the Central Sector Grant-in-aid Scheme on National Mission on Himalayan Studies in 2015 by this Ministry, is further envisaged to provide much needed focus in addressing the key issues relating to conservation as well as enhancement and sustainable management of natural resources in the IHR.

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